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Commissioner for Patents

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawing sheets containing Figs. 1-4 and 6 are attached at the end of this response.

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Commissioner for Patents**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-24 and 26-31 remain in the application.

Claims 1, 3 and 7 are herein amended.

Claim 2 and 6 are canceled from the application.

In Item 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings for failure to comply with 37 CFR 1.121(d). More specifically, amended drawings were submitted in a previous Office Action response. However, the Applicants failed to identify the corrected drawing sheets as replacement sheets. Accordingly, the Applicants herein resubmit the drawing sheets containing Figs. 1-4 and 6, with these drawing sheets identified as replacement sheets.

The Applicants note that claims 12-24 and 26-31 have been allowed in Item 5 of the Office Action.

In Item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has withdrawn the indicated allowability of claims 5 and 6, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,196,876 (hereinafter the "*Paagman reference*").

Therefore, in view of this newly cited reference, Applicants herein amend claim 1 by inserting therein elements of previous claims 2 and 6, now canceled in view of the insertion of subject matter thereof into claim 1. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to clearly identify that a conductive gasket is received in a longitudinal channel of the printed circuit board body. The longitudinal channel is identified as "*being defined in a first lateral surface of the connector panel by a middle one of said three micro-panel layers being set back from outer ones of said three micro-panel layers*".

In view of the insertion of this subject matter into claim 1, claims 2 and 6 are herein canceled. Moreover, claims 3 and 7 are herein amended in view of the modifications to claim 1, for appropriate antecedent bases and claim dependencies.

The Applicants argue that none of the cited references teaches the presence of a longitudinal channel formed by the setting back of one micro-panel layer with regard to other micro-panel layers. Moreover, the Examiner objects to claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), but fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. The Paagman references teaches various layers of micro-panel, however, there is no description therein of any side-by-side interconnection of panels. Therefore, the Examiner seemingly seeks support for the rejection using the Bellino reference.

However, there is no suggestion in either the Paagman reference or the Bellino reference to combine a side-by-side connector panel (Bellino) with a printed circuit board body (Paagman). Paagman does not address the issue of installing in side-

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by-side relation boards, such as the board 1 (Fig. 3), whereas Bellino does not describe any use of materials or constructions, other than what is known in the art, to position seal 612 in slot 614 (Fig. 7).

Therefore, in view of the absence of teaching pertaining to side-by-side interconnection of boards of micro-panel layers, the objection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is herein traversed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that this application is in order for allowance, and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:



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(Date)

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Encl. - Replacement drawing sheets for Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6
- Petition for Extension of Time